

# **Bloomington Normal Bass Club Tournament Rules 2011**

3/21/2011

1. Exceptions to the rules below will be considered by the Tournament Committee if they are received by 5PM the proceeding day.
2. The rules will stand as printed. If there is any question about any rule, the final decision and/or interpretation will be determined by the rules committee. The rules committee will consist of all board members present during the tournament. Any protest regarding any Bloomington Normal Bass Club tournament must be received by the Tournament Director, or his designated director, no later than ½ hour after the tournament ends. All protests must be submitted in writing.
3. Junior Membership: individuals under the age of 17 or individuals affiliated with either IHSA or collegiate fishing programs.
4. All entrants over the age of 17 are required to pay an entry with the exception of junior members. Entrants under 17 and Junior members are allowed compete or they can choose to fish for big bass only. Any entrant under the age of 17 will require a parent/guardian signature on their entry form.
5. Members in the same family are allowed sign-up and fish together. This courtesy will be afforded to a spouse, child, grandchild, sibling, in-law, cousin, aunt or uncle. Family member teams will be allowed to sign up at the ramp as long as both contestants are present.
6. All entries must be in the hands of the Tournament Director, or designee, by drawing time at the club meeting prior to the tournament with the exception of family entry, these will be accepted at the ramp up to 30 minutes prior take-off time.
7. The drawing of partners will be at the conclusion of the club meeting prior to the tournament. Any person entering the tournament as a boater will be guaranteed the use of their boat, in the event there are not enough non-boaters boaters may elect to fish alone or obtain a refund if a partner is not available. Surplus non-boaters will have the option to obtain a boat and fish alone or they may elect to obtain a refund.
8. Safety and sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation are expected from each contestant fishing our events. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted in the boat during tournament hours.
9. All contestants should be at the starting point at least 30 minutes prior to take-off time to allow check-in with the Tournament Director or their designee.
10. Fishing hours and take-off procedures will be announced at meetings. Live wells and kill switches will be checked prior to take-off. If an entrant is late for take-off, they must find a member of the Tournament Committee and have their live-well and kill switch checked prior to fishing.
11. Contestants who fail to appear at the official weigh-in area on time will be penalized 1 pound for each minute they are late. Contestants with fish who fail to arrive at weigh-in within 15 minutes of official deadline will lose all weight credit for that day.
12. You must stay in sight of your partner at all times.
13. Only artificial lures are to be used. No live worms, minnows or any other live bait of any kind is allowed. Pork rinds, pork frogs, eels or strips are permitted. The use of an underwater camera is prohibited during tournament hours.
14. Fish length, slot limits and quantities allowed will be announced at the tournament meeting prior to the event. Fish will be measured from the tip of nose with mouth closed to longest point of tail using the official club bump board. Once bag of fish is turned over to the weigh master, they have control of bumping fish and their decision will be final. If an attempt is made to weigh in a short fish as determined by weigh master, a penalty of 25 Classic points will be assessed. Said fish will not count in total weight of the day's catch and contestant will lose 1pound per short fish from day's weight.
15. A contestant may ask for a courtesy bump prior to handing their fish over to the weigh master without penalty.
16. The smallest fish or all of the fish in the contestant's bag will be measured prior to being weighed.

17. Largemouth bass weighing 6 or more pounds and Smallmouth or Spots weighing 4 or more pounds may be kept without penalty.
18. All boats must be equipped with some form of aerated live well capable of sustaining two limits of fish and recirculating water.
19. All fishing must be done from boats. All fish must be landed by contestants from within the boat. All boats must launch at the identified site and stay on the water during fishing hours, unless specified at the meeting.
20. Tournament contestants cannot fish within 50 yards of another contestant's boat which is anchored on a spot, trolling motor up, without consent of said boat. Questions regarding off-limit areas for a particular site will be answered and determined at the meeting prior to open draw.
21. Boat partners are expected to work out an agreement, as to boat operation, giving equal front deck time to both. The person who is operating the boat has the privilege of selecting route and fishing areas. In the event one chooses not to operate the boat and his/her choice is satisfactory to their partner, the contestant waiving the privilege still has the right to choose the route and fishing areas 50 percent of the time. Anyone found deliberately to be operating the boat in such a manner as to handicap his/her partner shall be disqualified from the event.
22. Due to the cost and maintaining a boat, the person not furnishing the boat, will pay a share of gas and oil costs for the day as well as splitting the cost of launch fees, etc. with the owner. Guidelines for cost:  
 1HP -- 25 HP -----\$15.00  
 30 HP --- 60 HP -----\$20.00  
 65 HP --- UP -----\$25.00
23. All contestants must have in their possession an U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket or vest, and must wear it anytime the gas engine is running. All engines in use in our tournaments must be equipped with an operable ignition kill switch and cord fastened to the operator whenever engine is running.
24. Electric motors (Trolling motors) are permitted for moving boat into and along fishing areas. Trolling of lures is prohibited.
25. No person may use more than one rod at a time.
26. It is prohibited for any contestant to offer fish to his/her partner. It is also prohibited for any contestant to accept fish not actually caught by him/her or suggest his partner give up a fish as a gift. Not following this rule will be reason for disqualification from this and all future tournaments of BNBC.
27. Before the Tournament Committee can disqualify a contestant, they must make said contestant aware of the protest and provide them the opportunity to present their facts before a final ruling is made.
28. **All contestants must have proof of insurance (\$300,000 Liability minimum) on file with Tournament committee prior to the use of their boat.**
29. **Scoring, Entry Fees & Prizes**  
 Scoring will be as follows:  
 Five (5) Classic points will be given to members participating in each tournament.  
 95 Classic points will be given to the winner, 94 to second place, and 93 to third place...etc.  
 A full pound will be deducted from weight for each dead fish weighed in.  
 Total weight of legal fish, minus any dead fish, minus any short fish penalties or late penalties will determine place of finish and points awarded.  
 No more than the fish or site limit per contestant may be held in live well at any one time. Culling must occur with each successive fish caught before next cast is made.  
 Big Bass award will go to contestant with heaviest fish for the day. Penalty weight for dead fish does not affect the outcome of this award.  
 The points list will determine the 25 Classic Qualifiers.
30. Entry fee is \$50.00 per tournament, per contestant and includes \$5.00 for the Big Bass pot. Entry forms for tournaments can be picked up at club meetings or off website **bloomingtonnormalbassclub.com** Entry fees may only be carried over 1 time, more than this will constitute a forfeiture of your entry fee.

Trophies and money will be awarded as follows:

Trophies for each tournament 1<sup>st</sup> place thru 3<sup>rd</sup> place and big bass.

A Big Bass of the year trophy

Angler of the Year Award. Awarded to angler with the highest point total after 8 club events.

Junior Angler of the Year Award.

Lady of the Year Award

31. Disbursement for each tournament: (\$50 entry includes big bass)

1<sup>st</sup> Place - 40%

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - 24%

3<sup>rd</sup> Place -16%

Big Bass - 10%

Classis Pot - !0%

Note1: Junior big bass entries will go directly to the big bass winner of the day in addition to the 10% noted above.

Note2: in the event we don't have a sponsor, trophy costs will be covered from the entries fees prior to payout.

Note3: ties will result in splitting money and duplicate trophies will be provided.

32. **Classic**

A Classic tournament will be held at the end of the year and has the following guidelines for qualifications:

- The top 25 fisherman for the year are eligible as decided by the points list. The best six of eight scores for each person shall determine the ranking on this list.
- The Classic is a 2 day event held at an undisclosed site.
- There will be a meeting, the week of the Classic for the contestants, to discuss details of location, lodging and travel.
- Each contestant will be responsible for their lodging.
- All participants are asked to secure a boat to use in this event. If any participant is unable to find a boat, volunteers will be taken to allow this non-boater to fish from the back of their boat.
- Regular BNBC rules shall apply to the Classic.
- Total combined weight, less any penalty weight for the both days will determine the winner.
- Family members may fish together.
- The Classic location will be off-limits from time of announcement until take-off Saturday morning.
- Classic Payouts – to be announced prior to tournament.